

The Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum

Introduction

This ungraded summary is for the teacher's use only and should not be given to students.

The story

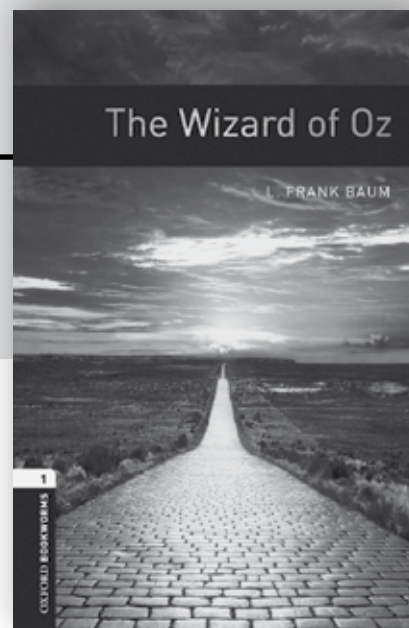
Dorothy lives in Kansas with her uncle and aunt. One day there is a cyclone and everyone runs to hide in the cellar but Dorothy tries to find her dog Toto. Before she can get to the cellar the house blows away with Dorothy and Toto in it.

When the house lands they find themselves in the country of Oz. They are met by the good witch of the North who tells Dorothy that her house has landed on and killed the bad Witch of the East. Dorothy wants to go back home and the witch tells her to visit the Wizard of Oz who will help her. So off she sets, on the yellow brick road towards the Emerald City where he lives. Before she leaves, she puts on the bad Witches magic shoes.

On the way, she meets three strange characters: a Scarecrow with no brains, a Tin Man with no heart and a Cowardly Lion. They all want to ask the Wizard for help and agree to go with Dorothy to the Emerald City. When they get there the Wizard agrees to help them but only if they kill the bad Witch of the West. However, as they leave the Emerald City the Witch of the West sends her magic monkeys to attack them. They capture Dorothy and take her back to the witch's house.

One day when the witch tries to steal Dorothy's magic shoes, Dorothy throws a bucket of water over her and kills her. Dorothy then rescues her three friends and goes to the Emerald City. But when they get there they discover the Wizard of Oz isn't a wizard after all. He's just a little, old man from Kansas.

He tells them that he cannot do magic and they do not really need it anyway as they have what they want already. He says the scarecrow does not need brains because he is already clever; the Tin Man does not need a heart because he already feels love; and the Lion is already very brave. Dorothy however, still wants to go back to Kansas and the good Witch of the South tells her that if she closes her eyes her magic shoes will take her there. So she closes her eyes and when she opens them again, she and Toto are back home with her uncle and aunt.



Background to the story

A cyclone or hurricane is an intense, often devastating tropical storm which occurs as a whirlpool of air set in motion by the rotation of the earth. They can have winds of anything from 120km to 290km per hour bringing terrible rains and severe thunder and lightening. Hurricane naming began in 1951 using the phonetic alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, etc.) This changed to female names in 1972 when 'Hurricane Agnes' on the East Coast of North America caused 122 deaths and damage costing over two billion dollars. In 1979, male names were introduced and Hurricane Frederic in Alabama, Mississippi caused thirty-one deaths and damage that again cost over two billion dollars.

Before Reading

Here are some ways to help your students approach the story:

- 1 Give students the title of the book and show them the picture on the cover. Ask them to try and guess what kind of the story it is.
- 2 Give students a copy of the text on the back cover of the book, and of the story introduction on the first page. When they have read the texts, ask them a few questions about the story, or use the Before Reading Activities in the back of each Bookworm.
- 3 Use the pre-reading activity in this worksheet.
- 4 If there is a recording of this title, play the first few pages and stop at an interesting point.

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Pre-reading activity

A letter

- 1 Where is she writing from?
- 2 Who do you think Glinda is?
- 3 Who do you think the Munchkins are?
- 4 What do you think Dorothy did?
- 5 Who do you think Toto is?
- 6 Why do you think she wants to see the Wizard?
- 7 Why can nothing hurt Dorothy on her way to the Emerald City?
- 8 What do you think the magic monkeys can do?
- 9 Who do you think Wanda is?

North House

Oz

Monday

Dear Glinda

Thank you for my lovely book about witches' magic! It's very good. Please come for tea tomorrow so that I can tell you my news! It's wonderful! The bad witch of the East is dead and the Munchkins are free! They are so happy now. And it's all thanks to a little girl called Dorothy. She and Toto are walking to the Emerald City now because she wants to see the Wizard. I gave her my magic kiss so nothing can hurt her. But I hope she doesn't meet Wanda of the West and those bad magic monkeys! See you tomorrow!

Love

Nora, Witch of the North

To the teacher

Aim: To familiarize students with plot and characters

Time: 10–15 minutes

Organization: Give one copy of the worksheet to each student, or to each group of students.

Ask students to answer the questions. Encourage

them to discuss and speculate and make as many suggestions as they like. You could then allow the groups to share their ideas with one another. Do not tell them whether they are right or wrong. Simply encourage discussion and ideas.

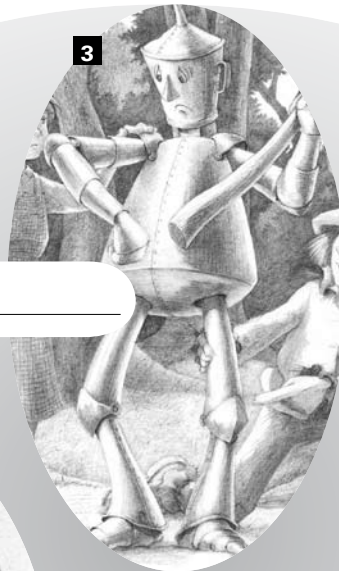
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While reading activity

Who said what?



1



3



5



2



4



6

- a 'Oh no – please don't kill anything!'
- b 'Look – there is the road to the Emerald City. It is made of yellow bricks, so you cannot lose your way . . . Goodbye.'
- c 'Look,' he said 'There's a tall tree next to the river. The Tin Man can cut it down with his axe. And when the tree falls across the river, we can walk across the tree.'
- d 'Look! Her feet are disappearing in the hot sun.'
- e 'This isn't Kansas, Toto! And who are these people?'
- f 'I'm very afraid of falling . . . but I think I can jump across.'

To the teacher

Where: At the end of Chapter 2

Aim: To identify the main characters and some key points in the story

Time: 10–15 minutes

Organization: Give one copy of the worksheet to each student, or to each group of students. Ask

students to look at the pictures and write the names of the characters underneath. When they have done this check their answers. Then ask them to match the characters with the quotations. See how much they can do without referring to the book.

Key: 1e 2c 3a 4f 5b 6d.

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After reading activity

Who's who?



1 Witch of the North	5 Tells Dorothy how to get home to Kansas	9 Is killed at the beginning of the story	13 Has a tall black hat
2 Witch of the West	6 Has a pair of red shoes	10 Gives Dorothy a kiss	14 Has long red hair
3 Witch of the South	7 Is friends with the Munchkins	11 Has a magic eye	15 Her people the Munchkins are afraid of her
4 Witch of the East	8 Is very afraid of water	12 Tells Dorothy how to get to the Emerald City	16 Is called Glinda

To the teacher

Aim: To revise the main characters

Time: 20–30 minutes

Organization: Give one copy of the worksheet to each student, or to each group of students. Ask students to match the names and events. When they have finished check their answers with the rest

of the class. Then ask them to draw and complete a similar worksheet for the following characters: the Wizard, Dorothy, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow. When they have finished, ask students to exchange and complete their worksheets within their group.

Key: 1: 7 10 12; 2: 8 11 13; 3: 5 14 16; 4: 6 9 15.